

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

January 26, 2010 Minutes

The Board of Selectmen met on Tuesday, January 26, 2010 in the Town Hall Clark Room. Those present were Selectmen Timothy F. Hult, John D. Williams, William R. Tice, Jr., Douglas A. G. Stevenson, and Peter Scavongelli. Town Administrator Timothy D. Goddard was also present.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Town Administrator Report

Mr. Goddard said there have been a number of recent developments in regard to the regional ALS issue. He said Emerson Hospital has partnered with a private ambulance company to continue to provide ALS service and the several members of the regional consortium of Towns studying this issue have agreed to move forward by increasing their ALS billing rate to \$1,599 and their BLS rate to \$1,150. Mr. Goddard said Carlisle has been asked to indicate whether it will follow suit. He said a decision will have to be made by February 14th. Mr. Goddard said he met with Chief Flannery and Mr. Hult last week to discuss some of the Chief's concerns. Chief Flannery was present tonight to talk with the Board. He talked about the costs involved in providing the service and he provided a spreadsheet that showed a rate structure for BLS and ALS with Base increases of 40%, 50%, 100% and 200%. Chief Flannery said he still has a few questions before he can make a recommendation to the Board on this matter. He said out of 14 communities in the area, 10 have chosen to use the all end - ALS service. He said he has indicated that he would like to support this effort, but still has a few questions about the billing and financial. Chief Flannery will meet with the Board on Feb. 9th to give his recommendation on this matter. It was noted that this new rate will be effective until September 2010.

Mr. Goddard said at the last meeting the Board was informed that the EOEA is offering communities the opportunity to extend their five year eligibility for Open Space and Recreation Plans to seven years by updating their current plans with new information. Mr. Goddard included in this evening's packet 'Section 9', which was the introduction page for the 2005 plan. He asked the Board to make any changes or updates tonight so that the Conservation Commission would receive same by January 29th. Mr. Tice made one minor change to the page, which was changing the date in 'paragraph 3, from 2000 to 2005'.

Mr. Goddard said the Chair of the Library Trustees has asked if a member from the Board of Selectmen would serve on the Long Range Strategic Plan Steering Committee for the Gleason Public Library. He said this Committee will meet on February 24th and March 17th. Mr. Hult volunteered to serve on this Committee. Mr. Goddard presented a list of obsolete computer and A/V equipment that the School would like the Board to declare as surplus for the purpose of disposal. On a motion made by Mr. Tice and seconded by Mr. Williams, it was unanimously **VOTED** to declare as surplus the equipment listed on the attached spreadsheet entitled "Surplus Equipment List-December 2009" for the purpose of allowing the School department to dispose of it.

Mr. Goddard passed forward a memo from Police John Sullivan relative to very effective police work in the Town. The Police Chief informed the Board of an arrest of a housebreaker and of the outstanding work

done by the police officers involved in this incident. Mr. Stevenson suggested sending a letter to the Chief commending the department on their excellent work.

Mr. Hult said he has been working with School Committee Chair Chad Koski on filling the vacant position on that Committee. He said on Thursday, January 28th there will be a meeting consisting of two members from the School Committee and two members from the Board of Selectmen who will interview the four candidates for this vacant position. The candidates are Patricia Hartigan, Mary Storrs, Don Rober and Josh Kablotsky. Mr. Hult said this is an open meeting. He added that an appointment will be made on Feb. 9th with the School Committee at the Board of Selectmen meeting.

Community Input

Building Inspector John Luther announced that his assistant Beth Bradley has resigned due to medical reasons. Therefore he has decided to hire three employees from within Town Hall, one to fill each day of the week that Ms Bradley worked.

Stretch Code – Public Hearing cont’d from 12/22/09

Building Inspector John Luther spoke briefly about how the Stretch Code can be adopted by the Town. He said he has heard from the State level that it has to pass at a Town Meeting. Mr. Hult said we will make the assumption that this is a Town Meeting decision and it will have to be placed on the Warrant for consideration. Mr. Stevenson said he wanted clarification on the five (5) requirements that were needed for Carlisle to become a “Green Community”. He wanted to know if the Task Force had a strategy to meet these other requirements. Dan Cook said they are working on these other aspects. Mr. Hult said in February a decision will be made whether the Stretch Code will be an article and be placed on the Warrant. He suggested that the Public Hearing be continued to the first meeting in March.

Dan Cook then spoke about other items the Task Force has been working on. He said they did a survey on the Town Buildings. He passed out a document outlining areas in the Town buildings that needed work in order to become more energy efficient. There was a discussion on how much it would cost the Town to invest in these energy improvements. Mr. Hult asked Dan if they had considered deferring these expenses to the Long-term Capital Requirements Committee as a small capital expense. He also suggested that this cost could be a ‘capital exclusion’. Another question that was raised was how the actual savings were going to be realized. That is, were they going to be in dollars in the budget or tracked as less energy used. Mr. Hult said he wanted to track both energy use and the monetary savings.

Susan Stamps spoke to the Board, expressing concern that the Board would not put the Stretch Code on the Warrant. She asked about the procedure for placing an article on the Warrant through a citizen’s petition.

Treasurer –Long Term Debt Refinancing

Finance Director Larry Barton was present to discuss his proposal for extending the maximum useful life on the Fire truck and cistern to fifteen (15) years. Larry presented a spreadsheet with interest rate assumptions on both, which compared the 5 year schedule to a 15 year schedule. He noted that if the Town chose to extend the borrowing to 15 years, there would be a savings of \$17,391.81 for the Fire Truck and \$6,956.73 on the cistern. He said the Commonwealth allows the Board of Selectmen to extend the maximum life of both of these assets up to 15 years. He said the second part of his discussion is on long term debt. He would like to roll these two assets into the other long term debt that he will discuss.

On a motion made by Mr. Williams and seconded by Mr. Tice, it was unanimously **VOTED** that the maximum useful life of the departmental equipment listed [below], be financed with the proceeds of the \$200,000 borrowing authorized by the vote of the town passed at the 2006 annual Town Meeting (Article 14) is hereby determined pursuant to G.L. c.44, §7(9) to be as follows: Purpose – Fire Department Cisterns; Borrowing Amount -\$200,000; Maximum Useful Life – 15 years.

On a motion made by Mr. Tice and seconded by Mr. Stevenson, it was unanimously **VOTED** that the maximum useful life of the departmental equipment listed [below] be financed with the proceeds of the

\$500,000 borrowing authorized by the vote of the Town passed at the 2006 annual Town Meeting (Article 13) is hereby determined pursuant to G.L. c.44, §7(9) to be as follows: Purpose – Fire Truck; Borrowing Amount - \$500,000; Maximum Useful Life- 15 years.

Larry said in years 1997, 1999 and 2000 the Town entered into bonds which totaled approximately \$2.2million with an interest rate of about 5%. In regard to refinancing, Larry said his advisor informed him that he could get an interest rate of 2½% in the earlier years to as much as 4% afterward. The net savings would be about \$215,000 over the next 10 years. He said there is a call premium of 1% on the outstanding debt. Mr. Hult asked what the timeframe would be on this matter. Larry said he has provided the Bank with all of the necessary documents. He said Bond Counsel will be looking at these documents on or about February 4th. Larry said he was hopeful that the sale would occur on March 3rd and then the call date on these bonds would be June 15th. He noted that the savings will be more significant in the early years. As mentioned earlier, he will probably add the fire truck and cistern to this transaction. The Board agreed that he should move forward with this refinancing process.

Carlisle School Building Project – Status Report

Lee said since last week's joint meeting, they have heard from MSBA that they are now offering slightly less than what was voted on at that meeting. He said the most recent offer from MSBA has been reduced by just over \$20,000. Lee said MSBA is due to vote on this amount, that is, \$6,988,637, on January 27th. Mr. Hult asked if any action can be taken before we have a final offer. Lee said no, he did not think so.

Lee then spoke about the timing for a special Town Meeting. He will meet with the communications sub-committee next week to talk about the types of communications they were planning to use in order to inform residents and to get the word out about the project. He said they were also looking at what the impact would be if they had a Special Town Meeting at the end of March or early April as opposed to May, that is relative to the construction aspect. Mr. Hult asked what the timeframe was for a Special Town Meeting. There was a discussion as to whether which dates would be more feasible. It seemed that a Special Town Meeting would be more likely on March 29th or April 5th. Mr. Stevenson said his preference was that a Special Town Meeting be held earlier, that is before the Annual Town Meeting. The two down sides were the cost of an additional Town Meeting and the education of the public on this topic. He said the upside is the extra month of construction time. He said the sooner we start on the project, it will be better because right now there is a very favorable bidding market and it will not last forever. He said site work and utility work could be done during the summer. We could be that much ahead. There were a number of construction arguments.

Mr. Hult said we will put on our February 9th agenda the discussion for a Special Town Meeting for the School Building Project.

FY11 Budget – Discussion of Non-Contractual Wage Adjustments

Mr. Hult said Finance Director Larry Barton prepared some figures for this discussion on how a wage adjustment for non-contractual Town employees would affect the budget. He said so far a wage increase was not factored into the budgets for the non-contractual Town Hall, Library, DPW, and Fire Department employees. FinCom chair David Guarino was also present for this discussion. It was noted that excluded from Larry's list were those employee's who had a contract that specified an increase. His figures represented a 1% increase or a total amount of \$20,240.00. JoAnn Driscoll, member of the Personnel Board was also present. She said this matter was discussed at an earlier Personnel Board meeting and a 2% increase was recommended. Mr. Hult said it was his understanding that the Carlisle Public School was giving their non-contractual employees a 2½% increase. David Guarino said this matter was discussed last night at the FinCom meeting. He said the budget that has been prepared does not contemplate any raises. He said if the departments were to give raises, they would have to take that money from another part of their already reduced budgets, which would be very difficult. David's position on raises was either hours would need to be cut or positions would have to be cut. He said if there is an increase in salary, then it will have to be additionally funded. He said the only way to fund a raise would be through free cash, and that did not seem realistic.

Mr. Hult said the Structural Financial Planning Committee will make recommendations on February 9th that will assist in making this decision on the wage adjustments. Mr. Stevenson said before our meeting, he would like to see a complete analysis of our free cash.

Liaison Reports

Mr. Tice said on January 12th the Cable Advisory Committee voted to recommend hiring an outside attorney to support them in their Cable contract negotiations with Comcast. The attorney they are recommending is William Solomon. Mr. Tice said they interviewed two attorneys and chose Mr. Solomon because of his knowledge in this area. There was a brief discussion on funding sources for the legal fees. Mr. Goddard said he would look into this matter further. He suggested taking this out of the legal account.

On another matter, Mr. Tice spoke about the Master Plan at the Concord Carlisle High School. He said they are talking about the next phase feasibility study - schematic design which will cost about \$1.3million. He said the next piece will be construction. He said this was just a heads up that they are moving forward. Mr. Tice said they are also looking at alternative design concepts.

Mr. Williams said in regard to Benfield Farms, the Board could have a request for an additional \$10,000 for an Order of Delineation. He explained that the developer is communicating with the Conservation Commission and they are trying to extend an order of Resource of Delineation for a few months which is due to expire on January 31st. Mr. Williams said he is hoping that this matter can be resolved. If not it will cost an additional \$10,000 and additional time.

Mr. Williams also spoke about the FinTeam this morning. He said that local receipts were as projected. The Quinn Bill funds came in at almost \$503.00 more than expected. He said the Minuteman's preliminary assessment to Carlisle is about \$16,700 less than expected, however it was noted this is a preliminary number.

Mr. Williams said it was reported that the Governor will hold Chapter 70 funds flat for FY11. He also said the Town Clerk reported that the election went very well and he thanked all of the volunteers for their assistance during the Election Day. Mr. Stevenson read all of the names of the election volunteers.

Mr. Stevenson said the Concord-Carlisle Teacher's negotiations and the Police Union contract negotiations are continuing.

Mr. Scavongelli said the Highland Building Stabilization Committee has selected the architect firm Menders, Torrey and Spencer, Inc. He said they have scheduled a meeting on Thursday (Jan. 28th) night to discuss the scope of the project.

Minutes

On a motion made by Mr. Tice and seconded by Mr. Williams, it was unanimously **VOTED** to approve the Minutes to the Board of Selectmen meeting of January 12, 2010.

On a motion made by Mr. Tice and seconded by Mr. Williams, it was unanimously **VOTED** to approve the Minutes to the January 14, 2010 Board of Selectmen Meeting.

At 9:35 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Scavongelli to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing negotiations, with the intent not to return to open session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Williams and the following roll call vote was taken: Hult – aye; Williams – aye; Tice – aye; Stevenson – aye; and, Scavongelli – aye.

Respectfully submitted by Margaret M. deMare

